

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

INRE-00 OMB-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /104 W
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P R 222025 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1090

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, NU

SUBJECT: WEEKLY POLITICAL SUMMARY, MARCH 9-16, 1973

REF: MANAGUA 1630

1. THE RIVAL AGUERO AND PAGUAGA FACTIONS BATTLING FOR CONTROL OF THE OPPOSITION CONSERVATIVE PARTY (PCN) NOW APPEAR DEADLOCKED. NO APPRECIABLE GAINS WERE MADE BY EITHER SIDE DURING THE PAST WEEK, ALTHOUGH BOTH WERE VERY ACTIVE. AGUERO CONVENED HIS DIRECTORATE MARCH 20 AND PRODUCED 14 OF THE 25 PERMANENT MEMBERS, IN ADDITION TO THE 3 PERSONS REPLACING DISAFFILIATED MEMBERS OF THE PAGUAGA GROUP. AGUERO REPRESENTATIVE JOSE ROBELO RETURNED FROM THE U. S. WHERE HE LOBBIED FOR THE AGUERO CAUSE AND SIGNED FINAL PURCHASE CONTRACTS FOR AN OFFSET PRESS WHICH WILL BE SHIPPED TO NICARAGUA AS SOON AS THE NECESSARY IMPORT PERMIT IS GRANTED BY THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY. PAGUAGA, WHO NOW CALLS HIMSELF THE PCN PRESIDENT, MET WITH LOCAL DISCUSSION GROUPS IN SEVERAL CITIES TO INAGURATE A PARTY " RENOVATION MOVEMENT", PROMINENTLY ATTENDED MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE AT GENERAL SOMOZA' S HEADQUARTERS AND RECEIVED A STEADY STREAM OF OFFICE AND FAVOR

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SEEKERS AT HIS NATIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL OFFICE. PAGUAGA TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE EXPECTS TO SOON MEET WITH GENERAL SOMOZRING 1956 HUNGARIAN CRISIS AND AGAIN LAST MAY IN SALZBURG UNUSUAL CONCERN AND UNDERSTANDING FOR AUSTRIA. KREISKY ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN CULTURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL LEADERSHIP, AND CITED THOUSANDS OF AUSTRIANS WHOSE STUDIES AND TRAVELS IN U. S. HAD ENRICHED THEIR HOME COUNTRY IMMEASURABLY.

2. STRATEGIC CONCERNS: REVERTING TO WISDOM OF PAST U. S. CONTAINMENT POLICY, KREISKY WARNED AGAINST HASTY AND UNBALANCED REDUCTION OF MILITARY FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE. WHILE EMPHASIZING HIS COMMITMENT TO DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT, HE NEVERTHELESS DESCRIBED MAINTENANCE OF BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN EAST AND WEST AS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO LATTER' S CONTINUED EXISTENCE. HE RECALLED HIS DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT WITH PRESIDENT NIXON DURING SALZBURG VISIT. IN MAKING THIS POINT, HE SAID THAT HE WAS NOT CONCERNED THAT HIS ATTITUDE WOULD BE MISCONSTRUED IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, HE SAID, THAT AUSTRIA BELONGS TO THE DEMOCRATIC WEST AND MILITARY NEUTRALITY DOES NOT ENTAIL COMPROMISE WITH THIS PRINCIPLE.

3. ROLE OF NEUTRALS: IN INDIRECT SLAP AT SWEDEN' S PALME (WHO IS NORMALLY DESCRIBED IN PRESS AS " FRIEND" OF KREISKY), CHANCELLOR ASSERTED THAT NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES WOULD NOT HAVE FREEDOM OF NEUTRALITY WITHOUT PROTECTION AND TOLERANCE OF U. S. HE THEN CAUTIONED AGAINST EXCESSIVE CRITICISM OF U. S. POLICIES, SAYING HE HAD DIRECTED THIS SAME WARNING TO PALME PERSONALLY.

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4. TRADE: KREISKY EXPRESSED FULL WILLINGNESS TO CO-OPERATE WITH U. S. IN SOLVING TRADE PROBLEMS NOW LOOMING. HE CALLED FOR CLOSEST POSSIBLE CONSULTATIONS IN MONTHS AHEAD AND PROMISED RECEPTIVE CLIMATE IN ECONOMIC RELATIONS. HE FURTHER WELCOMED MORE U. S. BUSINESS PRESENCE IN AUSTRIA AND VOICED CONCERN OVER LOW LEVEL OF TRADE NOW EXISTING BETWEEN U. S. AND AUSTRIA. HE THOUGHT THE SITUATION COULD AND SHOULD BE IMPROVED. MOWINCKEL

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